

made of electrodes containing a carbonaceous material having a specific surface area of from 100 to 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and said organic electrolyte contains benzene or its chlorine derivative having at least one hydrogen atom of benzene substituted by a chlorine atom;

wherein after the application of a voltage to the element, the element is maintained under reduced pressure;

wherein the organic electrolyte contains

a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or

b) a solvent mixture of sulfolane and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or

c) a solvent mixture of a sulfolan derivative and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof.

12. (Amended) A method for producing an electric double layer capacitor, which comprises impregnating an element comprising positive and negative electrodes facing each other with a separator interposed between them, with an organic electrolyte capable of forming an electric double layer on the surface of the electrodes to store electric charge, and then applying a voltage to the element, wherein said positive and negative electrodes are made of electrodes containing a carbonaceous material having a specific surface area of from 100 to 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and said organic electrolyte contains benzene or its chlorine derivative having at least one hydrogen atom of benzene substituted by a chlorine atom;

wherein the voltage is applied to the element in a dry atmosphere in an open

~~condition, and thereafter, the element is maintained under reduced pressure;~~

~~wherein the organic electrolyte contains~~

~~a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or~~

~~b) a solvent mixture of sulfolane and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or~~

~~c) a solvent mixture of a sulfolan derivative and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof.~~

20. (Amended) A method for producing an electric double layer capacitor, which comprises impregnating an element comprising positive and negative electrodes facing each other with a separator interposed between them, with an organic electrolyte capable of forming an electric double layer on the surface of the electrodes to store electric charge, and then applying a voltage to the element, wherein said positive and negative electrodes are made of electrodes containing a carbonaceous material having a specific surface area of from 100 to 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and said organic electrolyte contains benzene or its chlorine derivative having at least one hydrogen atom of benzene substituted by a chlorine atom;

wherein after the application of a voltage to the element, the element is maintained under a reduced pressure of at most 160 Torr;

wherein the organic electrolyte contains

a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate,

acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or

b) a solvent mixture of sulfolane and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof; or

c) a solvent mixture of a sulfolan derivative and a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl methyl carbonate, diethyl carbonate, acetonitrile, glutaronitrile and a mixture thereof.

#### **BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENTS**

Claims 10, 18 and 27 have been canceled and their limitations have been included in Claims 5, 12 and 20. The amendment of Claims 5, 12 and 20 is further supported at page 11, lines 2-9.

No new matter is believed to be added by entry of the amendments. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-17, and 19-26 will be active. Entry and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

#### **REMARKS**

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for her helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on May 20, 2002. During this discussion it was noted that Applicants will amend the independent Claims 5, 12 and 20 by including a limitation regarding the solvent in the organic electrolyte to overcome the rejection over Morimoto et al. The Examiner indicated that she will favorably consider this limitation.

In an electric double layer capacitor, the presence of water in the organic electrolyte, the solvent or the pores of an electrode material, such as carbon, is detrimental for the